

**EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MIZORAM
(THIRD SESSION)**

LIST OF BUSINESS

FOR EIGHTH SITTING ON FRIDAY, THE 21st JUNE, 2019
(Time 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

QUESTIONS

1. **Questions** entered in separate list to be asked and oral answers given.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

2. * **Resolutions**

S.R. ZOKHUMA

Commissioner & Secretary

* Please see Bulletin Part-II No. 68, dated the 18th June, 2019 for relative precedence of Private Members' Resolutions to be moved.

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SPEAKER : *“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins”*

I Peter 4:8

Hon. Dy. Chief Minister could not attend today and I request hon. member Pu Ramthanmawia to ask Starred Question no. 116.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. Will the hon. Agriculture Minister be pleased to state the villages of East Tuipui Constituency where measures will be taken?

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga to answer the question.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Agriculture Department will take measures at the following villages-

- 1) Khawbung
- 2) Khuangthing
- 3) Samtlang
- 4) Farkawn
- 5) Bungzung
- 6) Vangchhia
- 7) Dungtlang
- 8) Vanzau
- 9) Zawlsei
- 10) Hruaikawn
- 11) Sesih
- 12) Leisenzo
- 13) Khuangleng
- 14) Leithum
- 15) Vaphai

Irrigation & Water Resources Department is currently working on Irrigation Project at Vangchhia and Khawbung ‘S’ of East Tuipui Constituency and works will soon be carried out at Thekpui, Farkawn and Vanzau.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary Question is- Is there a proposal to take measures at Serlui

Constituency? If so, which villages?

Pu Speaker, we have many large rice fields in our constituency which are looked after by the non-mizos and is there a proposal to make production according to the values? Is there a way to stop the non-mizos from looking after the fields?

SPEAKER : Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Thank you, Pu Speaker. My Supplementary Question is- Is there a proposal to be self-reliant on potatoes, peas, onions and corn across the state? If so, are there any measures taken?

Works are carried out at Lunglei for more egg productions but the main problem is the poultry feeds. So, we can lighten each other's burden if we make more corn cultivations and there will also be cooperation between Agriculture and Vety Departments. It would be quite impressive if steps are also taken on feed mills.

SPEAKER : Pu Ramthanmawia

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. It is exciting that measures will be taken better than anticipated and it is also impressive that works will be carried out at the potential areas in my constituency.

There are around 323 hectares available for rice fields and we can produce a huge amount of rice. So, when will measures be taken? Thank you

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister Pu C. Lalrinsanga.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu C. Lalrinsanga, Serlui Constituency has the most potential areas and the non-mizo workers have been working at the fields for many years. These workers then send more than half of our cultivations to Silchar and that is why we could not gather all our productions. However, surveys will be made soon on land expansions, excavations etc.

Land levelling, transplanter and harvests will soon be operated by machines and we also have high hopes on achieving rice mill. Sanction is also approved for purchasing tractors and the youths are also willing to take over the non-mizos which will also give them lasting employment.

It is also the potential area particularly for Agriculture Department and as asked by the representative of Serlui Constituency, Irrigation Department will take measures on Vakultui Project, Lower Sesih, Saikhumzau and Sihlui.

In response to Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng, potatoes and onions are not quite our subject but we will do our best in maintaining more productions.

Besides, corns are planted under NFSM because there are many who domesticate pigs and the need for pig feeds is rising. So, looking at our economy status, it is important to trade with one another rather than relying on imports. Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng is willing to provide Lunglei with egg productions and it would be impressive if measures are taken by collaborating with Agriculture Department.

In response to Pu Ramthanmawia, we need to explore more potential areas and in order to be self reliant we need to cultivate rice in two shifts in a year.

Some works are ongoing and we will do our best to expedite the works. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma to ask Starred Question no. 117.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the Environment, Forests & Climate Change Minister be pleased to state-

- a) The location of Bamboo Plantation and its range
- b) The amount of profit from this plantation.

SPEAKER : Minister to answer the question.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, my answer is-

- a) In 458 areas i.e. at 11 Forest Divisions and 3 District Councils and the total range is 38601
- b) There are hardly any profits yet since the harvest is done only on one area and ₹24,000 is gained from 800 bamboos of Sakawrhmutuai Bamboo Plantation.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu C. Lalsawivunga.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker. There is a Bamboo & Rattan Research Centre at Bethlehem Vengthlang initiated by the previous MNF Ministry and how is this useful for the Govt.? Are bamboo/rattan research conducted

from this Centre? The inhabitants were to be favoured for the posts but why were they all dismissed?

SPEAKER : Dr. K. Pachhunga.

Dr. K. PACHHUNGA : Pu Speaker, Anchiri are made quite useful by the poor villages and it is also used for manufacturing perfumes. However, many non-mizos came here to buy them and they are becoming limited. So, is there a proposal to conserve them?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalduhoma

PU LALDUHOMA : Thank you, Pu Speaker. There are many schemes under Bamboo Plantation like Artificial Regeneration, Natural Regeneration, National Bamboo Mission and Finance Commission Grant, Medicinal Plant Project etc and it seems like we receive a lot of revenue from these. However, I believe there will not be much to see if we are to look at the wide plantation areas and we had only received Rs. 24,000 as revenue. This proves that it is not a profitable investment policy and it would be more benefitting if the NGOs are in charge and plant more bamboos if needed. If not, we will spend a lot with not much good results.

SPEAKER : The Assembly Committee might need to look at it as well. Hon' Minister to answer the question.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Thank you, Pu Speaker. In response to Pu C. Lalsawivunga regarding the dismissing of the inhabitants, no one is dismissed during this present Ministry.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: The Ministry might not know it but they were dismissed and I am not saying the present Ministry dismissed them. I am asking if actions could be taken.

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: It seems like the previous Ministry's doing and we will look into it.

We do not interfere on the management of FRCBR and in response to Dr. K. Pachhunga on Anchiri, we proposed to initiate its conservation together with the Forest Officials and PCCF.

In response to Pu Lalduhoma regarding Plantation, the Bamboo Mission is under the Central's Agriculture Ministry and Farmer Welfare and the department to look after it is not yet settled. However, we will have a further study into it.

PU C. LALSAWIVUNGA: Pu Speaker, the Bamboo & Rattan Research Centre was initiated by the previous MNF Ministry. They now formed the Ministry again and how did they not know about it? (*PU LALDUHOMA: My question*)

PU TJ. LALNUNTLUANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, what I meant was that the Govt. does not interfere on its administration and management.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, whether it is under the Bamboo Mission or State Bamboo Development Board or SEDP, the implementation of several schemes is not convenient at all. So, is there a way to implement this policy from another aspect? I believe we can have great forests if we hand them over to the NGOs.

SPEAKER : I request our Hon' House Leader.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, Bamboos were under Forest Department before but the Central assigns Horticulture Department to look after it since it is scientifically a grass and not a tree. So, we also took measures for it to be under Horticulture Department.

The Research Centre at Bethlehem Vengthlang was initiated and programmed by the Central Govt. Bamboo is now our main flagship programme and we have targeted its two seeds- Brandicy and Latifloras. It is important that Link road passes through the Plantation and this plantation needs 4/5 years to fully develop and during these years, the link road will also be developed by then. It will then be privatized and the private planters will form a plantation society just like Hnahlan. This will also create employment and the process does not even need high electricity power. The main problem in this regard is link road which I believe will be developed gradually. We are now preparing to hand over the society system to the Village concern.

SPEAKER : Mr. Leader of the House, Sir, will it be advisable to Sign annual maintenance contract agreement?

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, it will be required.

SPEAKER : We will now move on to Starred Question No.118. Let us call upon our hon. Member, Pu Vanlalhlana to ask the question.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state: -

- a) The benefits received by members of the Mizoram Journalist Association from the Govt.?
- b) If there is any proposal to grant pension benefits?
- c) If there is any proposal to accept the plea made by the Mizoram Journalist Association to Chief Minister for pension grant of journalist?
- d) What are the Steps taken so far?

SPEAKER : To answer the question, let us now call hon. Minister.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER : Pu Speaker, thank you. The answer to hon. Member, Pu Vanlalhlana's questions are:-

- a) The benefits received by Mizoram Journalist Association from the Govt. of Mizoram are –
 - i) Accredited Journalist members received ₹1,50,000/- for Ex-gratia. and Journalist members received ₹1,00,000/-
 - ii) From journalist welfare fund, family declaration members receive medical assistance.
 - iii) Depending on the travelling purpose of a journalist to other State, the govt. has taken care of the tour programme.
- b) The Govt. has received the proposal and is now under consideration.
- c) As above.
- d) As above.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu VL Zaithanzama.

PU VL. ZAITHANZAMA: Pu Speaker, can the Accredited journalist use the same card that the Govt. issued to them for entry pass in the Session Hall or else? Why is another card being issued to them for entering the Session Hall?

Next question is – Why is I&PR building construction delayed despite the demolition work being completed long back?

And, isn't it appropriate to upgrade advertisement rate since the Govt. Servants have now enjoy the revised pay? Thank you.

SPEAKER : Pu Vanlalhlana.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, if MJA members could be classified as “official on duty” during their stay at Mizoram Houses? I also request pension facilities for MJA, as given by other States like Tripura, Manipur and Assam.

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon hon. Minister, Pu Lalruatkima to answer the questions.

PU LALRUATKIMA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, in regard to the question of the hon. Member, Pu VL Zaithanzama, let us expect that MJA members are able to attend such functions as per the venue accommodation.

As for Lianchhiari Run, 10% of the total sum is received from NEC in June, 2017. Approach has now been made for the remaining fund to begin the construction work.

In regard to up gradation of advertisement rate, it is ongoing proposal. As for the question to hon. Member Pu Vanlalhlana, I&PR Deptt. is taking the step to solve the problem faced by MJA in this regard.

SPEAKER : It is accredited card and not the Assembly card. It is adopted and the practice of Parliament. It has also been discussed in the Presiding Officers' conference and as is done as security measure. Accredited card is not sufficient; thus, Assembly card is required. To ask starred Question No.119, let us call hon. Member, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, will the hon. Minister of Land Resources, Soil & water conservation Deptt. be pleased to state: -

- a) How many rubber plantations are there in Mizoram?
- b) The area covered by rubber plantations in Mizoram?
- c) If there is any proposal to set up Regional and Central Rubber Board office?

SPEAKER : Let us now call our hon. Minister, Pu R. Lalzirliana to answer the question.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. The answer is as follows:

- a) Since there are private plantations, the exact number of rubber plantations cannot be given.
- b) The area covered by rubber plantations as per the record of the department is as follows:
 - i) Under NLUP - 1558 hectares.
 - ii) Under NABARD - 1200 hectares.
- c) Yes, there is a proposal to set up a Regional office.

SPEAKER : Supplementary question from Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA: Pu Speaker, the govt. is only facilitator, thus, my main reason for the question is to enquire about private plantation. Is there any proposal to hand over govt. plantations to private planters as done by the Tripura govt.? If it is possible to approach the Central Govt. in person and not just written letter for regional office?

SPEAKER : Let us now call upon our hon. Minister to answer the questions.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, due to the keen interest shown by the hon. Chief Minister, rubber plantations have grown tremendously; there is a huge success among private planters. Private planters are larger in numbers than that of beneficiaries under NABARD and NLUP. Therefore, steps are taken for Regional Rubber Board. We are looking for land site and a house to rent for the office. Further steps will be taken with the guidance of the hon. Chief Minister.

Pu speaker, rubber plantations under NLUP Phase 1 is now 7/8 years old. From the information we received, there are 1 lakh rubber plants planted under NABARD fund covering around 1,000 families. We now have fund for 100 families to provide machine.

Pu Speaker, 500 rubber plants can be planted in one hectare of land. The department has given financial aids of 13 lakhs covering 2,758 hectares to accommodate 79,000 rubber plants. Thus, the total plants including private planters is estimated as 20 lakhs rubber plants. Approximately 1500 rubber plants can be harvested from 1 hectare of land. It may also be noted that Mizoram has a high potential for rubber plantation.

SPEAKER : Starred Question No.120 is a joint question of Pu Vanlalhlana, Pu VL Zaithanzama and Pu F. Lalnunmawia. Let me call the youngest member, Pu F. Lalnunmawia.

Prof. F. LALNUNMAWIA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Will the hon. Agriculture Minister be pleased to state:

- a) Is it possible to harvest a sufficient amount of rice for the people of Mizoram?
- b) In order to increase the harvest, what proposal does the government has?
- c) What step has been taken so far?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, let us call upon the hon. Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, the answer to hon. Members, Pu Vanlalhlana, Pu VL Zaithanzama and Prof. F. Lalnunmawia is as

follows:

- a) We are expected to harvest rice to meet the requirement of the people of Mizoram.
- b) There is an ongoing proposal of increasing the production of rice through Centrally Sponsored Scheme and SEDP.
To increase our production of rice, the Govt. is going to take the following steps:-
 - i) From one of the components of Food Security Mission, the Govt. will organize training for cluster demonstration.
 - ii) Under custom hiring centre, there is a proposal to utilize tractors and power tillers for leveling, planting, and harvesting.
 - iii) Under Irrigation & Water Resources Deptt., there is a proposal to utilize drill rig which will enable for solar water submersible pump in paddy fields.
 - iv) Under SEDP, measure is taken to increase the production from paddy fields and high terrace so that we harvest rice twice annually wherever possible.
- c) There is a plan for construction of pond under centrally sponsored scheme.

Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Supplementary Question from Pu Lalrinsanga Ralte.

PU LALRINSANGA RALTE: Pu Speaker, my question is –
There has been no SDAO in Bilkhawthlir for quite some times. Will it be possible to post one? If so, when will this be done?

SPEAKER : Pu Lalrindika Ralte, hon. Member.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Speaker, thank you. My question is – If Agriculture department could find the way to procure wheat?

SPEAKER : To answer the questions, let us call the hon. Minister, Pu C. Lalrinsanga. Question hour is over, however, let us call him to answer the questions.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, to answer the hon. members from Serlui constituency, SDAO has been posted at Bilkhawthlir as per the request of the hon. Member himself.

In regard to hon. Member, Pu Rindika's question, we will look into the matter.
Pu Speaker, thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, question hour is over. Hon. Health Minister has organized free health check-up. If there are members who are unable to get check-up during this session, they may get it done at Civil Hospital after this session.

As per rule 27 (1), today is scheduled for Private Members Resolution. No. 1 Resolution of the ballot is – “We are grateful that within a short period of time, MNF Ministry upgraded the roads through the length and breadth of Mizoram”. Let us now call the Mover of the resolution, hon. Member, Pu Zothantluanga to move the resolution.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that it is the priority of MNF Ministry to maintain road projects initiated during the tenure of previous ministry, the road condition was such that bandh and demonstration had to be organized.

Pu Speaker, on 21st November, 2014, hon. Member Dr. K. Beichhua had to submit a resolution urging the govt. for maintenance of road. On 16th October, 2015, hon. Member Pu Vanlalzawma again submitted a resolution urging the govt. to solve the problem faced by the people in regard to road communication. Pu Speaker, the resolution was rejected by the ruling party. On 16th March, 2018, Pu K. Sangthuama, hon. Member submitted a resolution, requesting the govt. to speed up the communication work. The resolution was amended somehow and passed by the House.

If we had not mentioned the actual condition of road communication during the previous ministry, we would not understand the steps taken by the present hon. Chief Minister. Pu Speaker, during the previous Ministry, the people were facing problem to such extents that we had scarcity with the supply cooking gas and various essential commodities. We, the Mizos are a society who are devoted to ‘*hnatlang*’ thereby which the people often stepped out to repair the damaged roads. Such motives help us in solving the problem to some extents. Due to blockage of inter-villages roads, JCB had even been deployed to carry sick people to the nearest health centre.

The reason for non-maintenance of road during the previous ministry was lack of funds. However, from the information we have received, allegedly non-tribal contractors were given the maintenance work in order to obtain some profits from cut percentage. If it is true, 21.6% cut was taken from one particular contractor.

Pu Speaker, it is a shame that some people were blamed for the cause of the recent landslide in the stead of concerned contractors who took all the responsibilities. Due to poor condition of Bairabi - Kolasib road, we had even heard of truck drivers organizing a bandh, so was Lunglei - Tlabung road.

Pu Speaker, the present ministry, after assuming office as we are all aware of started maintenance work with whatever remaining fund left by the previous ministry. The work started in full swing even before having its own budget for January – March, 2019.

In the previous Ministry, PWD engineers were a laughing stock, but as of now, the lack of engineers came into light with around 32 Nos. vacant posts of SDO & AE. In 23 divisions, only one SDO and JE are posted where as there are 61 posts of SA to be filled for development. Thus, I move the resolution that, “We are grateful that within a short period of time, MNF ministry upgraded the roads throughout the length and breadth of Mizoram”. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : We will now start the discussion. How much time should each member be given? Should we make it 10 minutes as usual practice? Alright, who will start? Yes, Pu Lalduhoma.

PU LALDUHOMA : Pu Speaker, thank you. There are 8,948 kms of roads in Mizoram. During the previous ministry, we had fund allocations of ₹22,494 lakhs for maintenance of road but the amount was not spent in full. Thus, with whatever leftover and fund from NEDP, the present ministry continues with the maintenance work which is worth appreciating. However, is not it too early to say ‘through the length and breadth of Mizoram’ when we have 8,948 kms of roads in total? We can observe with our own eyes.

Pu Speaker the performance of the govt. will only be known from this budget which is yet to be spent. We should support the govt. in its performance the like for Niti Ayog Vision 20-30 which had been submitted by the previous ministry and will now be taken up by the present ministry. Pu Speaker, there is nothing much to speak about in giving gratitude as mentioned by the resolution, however, we should take this opportunity to discuss as to how we should upgrade the roads.

Pu Speaker, though I am not an Engineer, I have various opinions from common sense like the cutting of culvert, reservation of roadsides for plantation and the drainage system. Pu Speaker, common sense can be applied to these basic necessities.

Pu Speaker, there is a defect liability period in PMGSY road which is 5 years and 3-5 years in highway. We have new roads but are damaged easily. The Contractors had received their final bills which make them irresponsible. There should be draft liability period and the final bill should be withheld to enable the contractors to repair and take the responsibility of maintenance.

Then, there should be quality control division, a surprise checking should be made on regular basis and the same contractors should not be deployed often. I opine we have been deploying the same company for too long.

Pu Speaker, in my own term, I call it lump sum tender which has to be introduced. In this system, the people should be given the work and each individual work will be measured to determine the rate for a specific length. With this system, I believe we can achieve high quality of work with less expenditure.

Pu Speaker, while submitting tenders, it is mandatory that the contractors are provided with engineers and machineries. The department should check while the process of work whether the contractor actually possess the said requirements. If this is carried out, it may bring a huge difference. Besides, I believe the work quality may be improved by applying computerized hot mix, sensor power and modern crusher. Pu Speaker, it is my desire to abolish revised estimate; steps should be taken in this regard. We should also introduce design code of IRC-37.

Lastly, Pu Speaker, it is time to introduce Engineering Procurement Construction System which the Indian Railway Ministry has adopted. With this system, there cannot be revised system and delay. The contractor will make the estimate and all the required specifications and will tendered on open competitive bidding. Pu Speaker, I am grateful that we have some young and active ministers such as Pu Robert Romawia etc. and other MLAs. If we work together, we can achieve quality road communication in Mizoram. Thus, I give my support to the resolution. Thank you.

PU R. LALZIRLIANA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, as we are discussing private member's resolution, the concerned department officials were not present at the start of discussion and now, they have arrived. I would still like to emphasize that in future, concerned official should be present as we legislatures are in the process of discussing matters concerning their department.

The resolution of hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga is a fact as I have recently proved it while visiting my constituency; the time taken to reach Seling in the previous ministry would be that of Tuirial.

Pu Speaker, we are fortunate to have a Chief Minister who is able to identify the condition of our roads without wasting any time. Soon after Christmas Festival, our hon. Chief Minister visited remote areas without wasting any time, which is commendable. PWD officials should have been present when the hon. Opposition Leader made his speech. Pu Speaker, it is difficult to change the opinion of engineers and technical staffs by a layman. However, what we should keep in mind is that experience should also be taken into account. What is applicable to other parts of the

country as per the guideline of All India Engineers Association may not be applicable to our state. Pu Speaker, due to the lack of Engineers, supervision work is not up to the mark that leads to the poor construction of roads. Another factor is the lack of machineries by the contractors. Pu Speaker, Engineers should supervise and keep the contractors under their instruction and not be under the contractors. Pu Speaker, I have visited hon. Chief Minister's constituency and the road that leads to Tuirial is so smooth and in extremely good condition. But, after which there was a vast difference from Tuikhurhlu. Being Chief Minister's constituency, priority must have been given without his request. Pu Speaker, this kind of act should not be repeated in the future, it looks like it is intentional. There was vast difference between the hon. Chief Minister's constituency and beyond his constituency. The contractor should be given order to repeat his work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us now call hon. Member, Pu Lalrintluanga Sailo.

PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO: Pu Speaker, I am grateful that today we are able to discuss a private resolution from hon. Member, Pu Zothantluanga.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I feel that this ministry is worth giving praise for Hunthar sinking land repairing work. This work alone is worth giving thanks in this House as it had been a major problem for the people throughout the previous ministry.

Pu Deputy Speaker, as mentioned by the Mover of the resolution, within a short period of time, works such as water-bound formation cutting of 236.500 kms, black topping 225 kms, resurfacing 405.350 kms, pot holes and patch repairing of 522.450 kms and cell filled concrete 19 kms could be completed without utilizing a single rupee from the budget.

Pu Deputy Speaker, during the past 10 years of the previous ministry, Bawlte-Darlung road which is only 14 kms could not be repaired, due to which the congregates of Presbytery had to travel from Aizawl to Kanghmun via Reiek/Ailawng. The church is grateful that it is now no longer need to travel via Reiek/Ailawng. I would like to thank for West Phaileng-Marpara road repairing work. But I would like to remind the authorities that there is huge work which still needs to be done.

I would like to thank for the proposal for up gradation of Rawpuichhip - South Sabual road, West Phaileng - Dapchhuah BRTF road and Phaileng – Tuirial road. Pu Speaker, the key to development is road communication. Thus, there are potential areas which this upgradation will cover.

Lastly, as being a contractor myself, I would like to request the government to review the period of maintenance of roads by contractors which is reduced from 5

years to 1 year. If maintenance period is short, the contractors execute the work accordingly.

Pu Deputy Speaker, I give my support to the resolution and request my fellow members to vote for it. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu KT Rokhaw.

PU K.T. ROKHAW : Pu Deputy Speaker, I am grateful that I am able to participate in the discussion of this Private Member's Resolution. (**PU LALRINTLUANGA SAILO**: Pu Deputy Speaker, may be due to what was served yesterday, five/six members are facing stomach problem. Thus, I would request you to understand if we have to leave the House often.)

Pu Deputy Speaker, mover of the resolution blames the previous Congress party for neglecting communication. However, what I would like to point is, as we are all aware, during the year 2016 – 2017, there was continuous rainfall which makes it impossible to execute the work. The then ministry realized the condition of the road during the year 2018 – 2019 and thus allocated huge fund for road communication. Pu Dy. Speaker, however, before the work was executed, model code of conduct has to be observed from October.

Pu Speaker, Congress Ministry allocated huge fund for communication which enable MNF Ministry to execute work. Had it not been for the fund allocation, work could not have been executed. Therefore, if we are to thank the MNF Ministry, it is my opinion that we should also thank Congress Ministry for their initiative. Pu Dy. Speaker, Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu Andrew H. Thangliana.

PU ANDREW H. THANGLIANA: Pu Speaker, thank you. Today, I agree with the resolution of the hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga, which is, "We are grateful that within a short period of time MNF Ministry upgraded the roads throughout the length and breadth of Mizoram". I am grateful that execution of work is now in full swing. It is truly praiseworthy.

Pu Speaker, in my constituency, Sairang - Buichali road is so smooth that now, with high speed, it has become accident prone.

I would like to thank for the swift execution of work for Tuikum landslide. Pu Dy. Speaker, it is also worth mentioning in the House that Serkhan - Bagha road, an important economic road has been upgraded. I would request the hon. Chief Minister

to please take note of Serlui - Tuirial road, Serkhan, Bukpui and Thinghelh road as well since they are roads leading to district headquarters as well as economic roads.

Pu Dy. Speaker, on behalf of my constituency, I would like to state that we are not 100% grateful with the resolution. Since Kawnpui sub-Division upgradation, fund has been diverted for execution of road works. Thus, in order to be grateful 100%, I request that the fund be reallocated for the upgradation of Kawnpui sub-Division. Thank you, Pu Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now have lunch break. Meeting will resume at 2:00 pm.

2:00 PM

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now continue with our discussion. Who is next? Pu Lawmawma Tochwawng.

PU LAWMAWMA TOCHHAWNG: Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. It is fortunate that today, we are able to discuss an important resolution. I thank the mover for bringing forth such a resolution.

From what I have heard, it is vehicle owners/drivers and farmers who cherished the most. Being a workshop owner previously by profession, I feel the drivers are the happiest one. Previously, when the roads were damaged and below sub-standard, they have to visit workshop after every travel. Now, that the roads are upgraded, there is less customers in the workshop. At the same time, Pu Dy. Speaker, the passengers are also happy as the time consumption of travel has become less. The gratitude of the people was shown in the result of election of MP and bye-election.

We are grateful for having Chief Minister who is keen on upgradation of road communication and mastermind the process and to PWD for the execution and planning the works.

Pu Dy. Speaker, we acknowledge that the present state is not fully satisfactory for there is still room for development. As of now, let us pass the resolution by thanking the government for its achievements. I support the resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Pu H. Biakzaua, hon. Member.

PU H. BIAKZAUA : Pu Dy. Speaker, thank you. I am grateful to the hon. Member Pu Zothantluanga for the resolution.

Hon. member from Palak constituency has claimed our development on road communication as of the previous Congress Ministry. I would like to clarify that during the previous Congress Ministry, there was no fund, Pu Dy. Speaker, from the information I received from one official. However, within the same financial year, MNF Ministry is able to upgrade the roads. Therefore, it is an important question that if Congress Ministry continue its term, will there be road upgradation as we have it now. Therefore, it is solely the effort of MNF Ministry led by the hon. Chief Minister that we are able to have better communication now. It is significant to note that it previously takes 10 hours to reach Lawngtlai from Aizawl. But as of now, it takes only 8 to 8.30 hours.

Pu Dy. Speaker, the people are complaining about construction of Vawmbuk-Tialdawnglung road on PMGSY funding. I request the authorities to take note and supervise the construction work.

The hon. Chief Minister has given written answer that there is a proposal to upgrade Lungtian - Mamte road under PMGSY. Pu Dy. Speaker, I would like to express that it is an important road as well as a convenient by-pass road. At the same time, I would also like to add that Vartekkai has not been approached by any of PMGSY road. Pu Dy. Speaker, I give my support to the resolution and request the members that the resolution be passed. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member from Aizawl South-II, Pu Lalchhuanthanga.

PU LALCHHUANTHANGA: Pu Deputy Speaker, the resolution stated 'throughout the length and breadth', but as for me, since I do not travel the length and breadth, I don't have much to say. However, what I know is, I visited my farm at Khamranga and the roads are upgraded. This particular road which is damage for all times is now in good condition.

Coming to my constituency, Pu Dy. Speaker, Sikulpuikawn point of Mission Veng is an important junction of 8 roads there by which due to heavy traffic jam, the pollution density is AQI156. I have sent a written request for flyover in the junction to hon. Chief Minister but I have not received any acknowledgement or response from the CM's office. Traffic jam is a huge problem in this area.

Pu Deputy Speaker, Khampei which is in the boundary of Thakthing and Mission Veng is a dangerous area as huge rocks would fall on the road. If preventive measure is not taken, it could cause great harm in the future. I just wanted to highlight these points within my constituency.

Pu Dy. Speaker, it is pleasing to note that we are receiving various compliments on the condition of our roads. Thus, I give my support to the resolution. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member, Pu Lalrindika Ralte.

PU LALRINDIKA RALTE: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. For execution of work we need fund. Thus, if we are to give thanks, or be grateful to, it has to be the previous ministry, which is the Congress Ministry. The present government is yet to pass its budget.

Pu Dy. Speaker, as development work is beginning in my constituency too, I would like to remind the government to execute the work under the surveillance as I will be recording all the works which may be executed within my constituency. I will be supporting the government on supervising the work. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright; let us now call hon. Opposition Group Leader, Pu Zodintluanga.

PU ZODINTLUANGA RALTE: Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. It seems the ruling party is hurry in moving the resolution; we have discussed the first one only last week and now we have another one. From the light of our discussion, it is clear that upgradation of roads has not cover the length and breadth of our state.

The hon. House Leader mentioned in his budget speech stated that the actual execution of work would only begin by the end of this year. Pu Speaker, that is true as it is the procedure of the government. We are yet to pass the budget, and once it is passed, it will be processed. Therefore, I would like to repeat that whatever work that has been executed now is the initiative of the previous ministry.

Pu Deputy Speaker, major portion of road construction works in our state were of the Congress Ministry. During the ten years ministry of MNF, there was no significant work done worth-mentioning whereas on the contrary, the Congress Ministry had completed huge projects like Aizawl - Lunglei World Bank Road, Lengpui - Mamit Road, Lunglei - Lungsan - Tlabung Road and Vaivakawn - University Road etc. Besides, there are several other projects which were sanctioned during the Congress party yet, being ignored during the MNF Ministry. With the approaching of rainy season, we will see the quality of the repair and construction of road under this ministry. Then only, we will be able to discuss this kind of resolution and so is too soon to have it now. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, let us invite Pu Ramthanmawia.

PU RAMTHANMAWIA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. This resolution comes out of the people appreciations towards the performance of the government. This indicates that it is not only the members who are grateful but the people as well. Today, people witness the actual condition of our roads and without a doubt. The MNF party is closely linked with the term 'quality road' and it is the people who came up with it.

We appreciate performance of the previous ministry and the budgets being left as claimed. But as we face the reality, is not the budget that matter most but to attend to the needs of the people. Knowing the importance, the government immediately takes up construction of Champhai - Lunglei Road.

Pu Dy. Speaker, I completely agree with hon. Member, Pu Chhuana of using cement concrete for strengthening the road in the stead of bitumen as repairing of roads will be easier and will further enable the concerned local laborers to take up any repairing works. We need that kind of road to withstand heavy rainfall. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let us invite the hon. Member from Champhai North, Dr. ZR Thiamsanga.

Dr. ZR. THIAM SANGA : Pu Deputy Speaker, thank you. I agree with the resolution of Pu Zothantluanga. It is true that the MNF party from the very start prioritizes our roads. The Congress ministry might have left some funds but it is this ministry doing the actual work. As mentioned earlier Champhai – Aizawl road has now been fixed and it now takes only six hours for travelling instead of 12. This transition alone alleviates so many problems for all kinds of travelling.

Yet, there may be some roads that remain unfixed for all cannot be taken up within this short period of this ministry. The main objective of this resolution is improvement of our major roads which are frequently traveled. In that regard, we cannot deny the outcome and I thank the concerned department as well.

Lastly, I would like to request a double lane road for Kulikawn - Zoram Medical College and I support this private resolution wholeheartedly. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, Hon. Member, Pu Vanlalhlana and he will be followed by Pu Ngunlianchunga.

PU VANLALHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. First of all, it is a good thing to have a resolution like this one but if we look into the words carefully, it seems

as if all the constructions have been done and that we should celebrate it. Therefore, it is wise to use a continuous tense to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding.

We categorize our road as National Highway, State Highway, District road, Village Road and Town Road; and, as per our Statistical Hand Book, we have 5732.10 kms road with 3823.81 kms of surface road in total. Considering the size of our state, the length of our roads is not that bad. During 1978 – 79, about 30% of the existing roads are useable and connected. It should be noted that the PC Ministry initiated master plan for connecting all major roads and we now have more than 95% roads which can be reached with vehicles.

The previous ministry is being accused as failing to improve our roads despite allocation of 206 crore for the same; the government under this ministry starts off very strongly in this regard and obviously its performance so far is good. Hopefully it will continue in the future as well. Another thing I would like to mention is regarding road within Aizawl North-I i.e. ATC - Rescue Home, Durtlang - Sihphir and Durtlang Biakin – Zuangtui road which are now in poor condition and need some sorts of widening.

Lastly, the two main reasons for poor condition of our roads; one is unplanned drainage system and the second one involves negligence of road patch. If we resolve these two, we will avoid many of our problems today. Thank you.

PU C. NGUNLIANCHHUNGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. The wording of this resolution, as mentioned by Pu Zothantluanga do not cover the whole state and thus need strengthening for there are many roads which intensively need improvement.

It is a fact that all the projects cannot be taken up at the same time and that it takes time. But with the budget provision under SEDP, I am sure that it will be taken up one by one. In this connection, Vairengte – Tuipang of NH-54 taken up under JAICA is a double lane project and the work is now in progress. I hope the work is carefully attended for the best outcome.

And, I would like to mention that huge amount of 206 crore funds for road shouldn't had been allocated unless the then Congress ministry had given enough importance of road improvement. The main reason for the delay during our ministry was heavy rainfall which prevented us from doing the work; as fund provision was once made in the budget, we barely had time to start the work as the term ended. What I would like to stress is blaming someone is unnecessary but we should cooperate with any project which may be initiated by any ministry. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Despite divergent opinions, I am glad that we are able to have discussion under a peaceful atmosphere. I now invite Pu C. Lalrinsanga, hon. Minister.

PU C. LALRINSANGA, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. From what I have heard and witnesses, there was no appropriate maintenance on road whatsoever in the previous Ministry. If there is a will, there is a way and that is what the hon. House leader opined and did.

There are benefits on quality road and I would like to mention four points in this regard. One, quality road saves time and money; and number two, it changes our economy for the better. If times taken for travel is reduced, then our expenditure on POL will be reduced which will further impact our economy in a positive way. Thirdly, the price of commodities partly or wholly depends on road condition. Lastly, we need a check gate for toll collection the like at Lunglei - Aizawl of World Bank Road. There are certain problems on maintenance of fund from the central but it is a high time for us to have toll gate.

Another thing I would like to mention is Lunglei road via Buarpui. If we follow the direction, this road could be much shorter compare to via Haulawng which will further improve our economy in the long run. I, therefore conclude that I agree with this Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, we will invite Dr. Vanlalhlana and then Pu Robert Romawia Royte, hon. Minister.

Dr. VANLALTHLANA : Pu Speaker, thank you. I am grateful for the work taken up under the hon. PWD Minister. We all seems to know performance of the previous ministry in this regard, the failure which they have claimed for bad weather and how the same is carried out under this ministry. That is how things worked in the previous ministry.

Let me point out one thing that I have witnessed on our journey to Phullen – Zawngin road in which construction was underway but not up to GSP guideline of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. We instructed to follow the guidelines but in vain. If that is the process, a lot of problems will come up in the future. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into the matter on immediate case.

Likewise, the condition of Ramhlun Vengthar – Ramhlun Sports Complex road of my constituency is intensive and I request for immediate attention.

As mentioned by Pu Lalrinsanga, most of the aforementioned problems will not arrive if only we fix the patch holes immediately to avoid deeper problems. So far, performance of the government is good but it is too early to be mentioned as of perfect tense. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, Pu Robert Romawia Royte.

PU ROBERT ROMAWIA ROYTE, MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. I consider this resolution is something worth celebrating. Looking back what the PWD had done in the last five months, the performance is great and is much appreciative.

Another thing is bridge project which is taken up in various places. It is known to us all that accident happens at various bridges allegedly due to its poor construction. As such, concentration is given on improvement of such bridges under the able guidance of the hon. Chief Minister which truly is appreciative.

It is great to hear from the words of the hon. Chief Minister that the government will now favor any local contractor in dealing of contract work within the state. At the same time, Pu Speaker, I suggest introduction of a more simplified system of bill payment for the convenience of the general public.

We are all aware that our budget provision alone is not enough to make everything work. Thus, it is necessary to find and make the best use of central scheme. It is great to learn that work tender for Aizawl - Tuipang road amounting to 6,000 crores is well-managed with accumulation of its GST which is expected to be more than 180 crores.

On behalf of the people of Aizawl East II constituency, I convey my thank for fulfilling a request for improving Chite - Armed Veng 'S' road. At the same time I also request to also take up Armed Veng 'S' – Ramthar road. Lastly, I express my support this resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Let us now hear from hon. Chief Minister, Pu Zoramthanga.

PU ZORAMTHANGA, CHIEF MINISTER: Pu Speaker, thank you. As we all have known, this Ministry starts from 15th December, Lok Sabha election followed up shortly and we barely have time to do anything. Thus, we had met with various problems on construction of road due to the election code of conduct which binds us. It is surprising to see such a favorable outcome on road despite the said problem. To

some extents, I agree with the opposition as nothing much could be done, but considering the limited time, I am very proud of what have been done so far.

It is true to a certain extends that we work with budget leftover of the previous ministry but our performance during this short period is quite promising comparing to 10 long years ministry of congress party. What is more important as indicates by our performance is what we prioritized could be achieved despite poor climatic condition or the budget.

The next priority is the Agriculture link road. Whether it is of rubber or bamboo plantation, we are working very hard for it concern developing our economy. With God's help, we hope to extend our approach so as to improve the economy of our State. With all of that being said, I support the resolution for the development of our state. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Now, i invite Pu Zothantluanga to beg leave of the House to adopt his Resolution.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Pu Speaker, thank you. I am glad that 18 members who have participated in the discussion of my resolution seems to agree with this important resolution. As stated earlier, it is appreciative that roads regularly used are now being done within a short span of time. Thus, I humbly appeal to the House for adoption of my Resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER : Do we agree to adopt it? (*Members agreed.*) As the House supports this resolution, I declare that this Resolution is adopted by the House on unanimous decision.

PU ZOTHANTLUANGA: Thank you, Pu Speaker.

SPEAKER : Our business for today is finished. We will resume our sitting on Monday at 10:30 AM.

(Sitting is adjourned at 4:10 pm)